

THE GULL



GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER VOL. 88 NO. 1 JANUARY 2003

FOUNDED 1917

Activities of the Latin America Committee

by Bob Risebrough



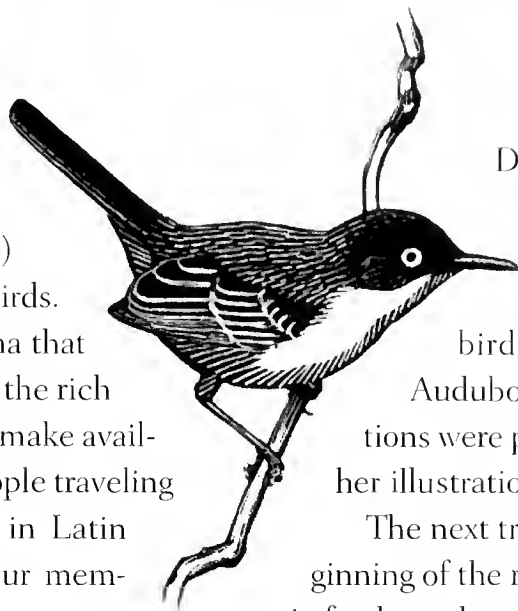
We readily admit that a principal activity of the Latin America Committee (LAC) is the enjoyment of tropical birds.

GGAS has sponsored seven trips to Panama that have introduced Bay Area bird watchers to the rich diversity of tropical avifauna. We will soon make available a group of do-it-yourself guides for people traveling on their own in Panama and elsewhere in Latin America, with information obtained by our members on what we saw, where we stayed, etc.

Acquaintance with tropical birds instills an obligation to protect them. We can hardly avoid it. Each generation of Audubon members reaches the same conclusion: education is the key. But how can a group of gringo birdwatchers influence education in another country with a different language and culture?

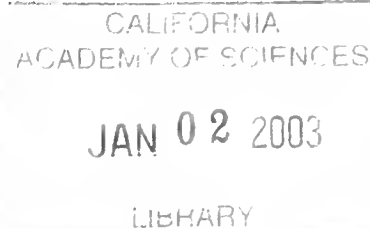
We have started locally. This school year, to date, 110 letters in Spanish have been sent by children in the bilingual program of the Oakland schools to children living in the Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve in Mexico, and 171 letters have arrived from Mexico. To complement this program, LAC is now preparing an educational package, presented as a series of transparencies, that will tell Oakland children something about the Reserve, where it is, what it's like, what the people do, what kinds of birds live there, which birds can be seen in both places (e.g. red-tailed hawks), and more.

What next? A package on Panama, using the Harpy Eagle as the introduction to tropical forests and their wildlife. The intent is to integrate the Oakland program with an environmental education program to be developed in Panama where the Harpy Eagle is the national bird, a symbol of sovereignty that must be protected. We have produced a poster from a painting by the local artist Hans Peeters.



Donations to LAC/GGAS provided critical support for the publication of *Quien Vuela Ahi: Guia de las 50 Aves Comunes de la Ciudad de Panama*, a guide to 50 common birds of Panama City published by Panama Audubon and the Smithsonian Institution; illustrations were painted by LAC member Dana Gardner (see her illustration at left of the Common Toby-Flycatcher).

The next trip to Panama is scheduled for June, the beginning of the rainy season. The landscape is green, the air is fresh, and many birds are nesting. Proceeds will permit the participation of one or two Panamanian teachers with whom we will work in the development of the environmental education program. Details on the GGAS Web site. 🐦



Exciting News!

The Port of Oakland is now implementing the restoration project at Clinton Basin/Seabreeze Yacht Harbor located at 5th Avenue and The Embarcadero in Oakland. GGAS has been working with the Port of Oakland and the Fifth Avenue Neighborhood Association to bring this restoration to fruition. The clean-up on the site was part of the GGAS 2002 Earth Day Events. We'll post updates and an article on the phases in coming *Gull* issues.



Jacquie Smalley



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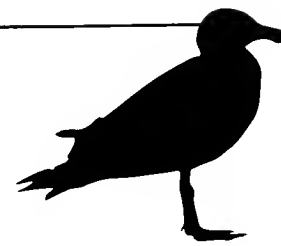
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FIELD TRIPS

Susan Groves



Strybing Arboretum

San Francisco

Sundays, January 5, February 2

Meet at 8 a.m. at the front gate of the Arboretum (9th Ave. and Lincoln Way) for this regular first Sunday of the month half-day trip. Strybing Arboretum is a delightful section of Golden Gate Park, with several micro-habitats attracting a varied array of resident, migrant and vagrant birds. Beginners and all others welcome. GGAS co-leaders: Allan Ridley, Rick Ferrick. Strybing Arboretum Docents: Helen McKenna, Linda Lyons. 415.566.3241.

Birding for Families at Strybing Arboretum

San Francisco

Sundays, January 5, February 2

8:30-10:30 a.m. Meet at the front gate of the Arboretum (9th Avenue and Lincoln Way) for this regular first Sunday of the month bird and nature hike through the exciting micro-habitats of Strybing Arboretum. For ages 7 and older. Please bring binoculars, small

notebook and pencil. Leaders: Nancy DeStefanis, Scott Walker and Darren Dawson, Strybing Arboretum docent. Sponsored by GGAS, Strybing Arboretum and the Stow Lake Environmental Education Project. 415.876.5220; stowlakeproject@yahoo.com.

Palo Alto Baylands & Mountain View Shoreline*

Saturday, January 11

8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The wetlands, marshes and open waters at Palo Alto and Mountain View are among the most easily accessible sites for birders on San Francisco Bay. Levees and boardwalks overlooking the preserves make this an excellent spot to view 60-80 species which winter in the south bay. Ducks, shorebirds, waders, gulls, raptors and many more make this a most ideal birding experience. Meet at the duck pond near the Baylands Preserve. From Hwy. 101 in Palo Alto (just south of the Dumbarton Bridge), exit at Embarcadero Rd. East. Stay to the right and be careful not to end up on the Oregon Expressway. Drive east over the freeway to the end of the street, turn left and continue to the duck pond on the left. We will meet in the parking lot immediately to the right of the gate (the gate itself is locked until 8 a.m.). Wear clothes appropriate for cold, wet weather. If it has been raining wear boots or waders since it can be quite muddy on the levees. Bring lunch and liquids. Restrooms may not be available before 1 p.m. Leader: Dan Murphy 415.564.0074, murphsf@att.net.

*For carpool coordination, call Susan Groves at 510.654.5954 if you can share a ride or if you need a ride.

[\$] trips go to parks or other sites which require an entrance fee.

If you need information and have difficulty reaching a field trip leader, if you have suggestions for trips, or if you are interested in leading a trip, call Susan Groves, Field Trips Committee Chair.

Las Gallinas Sewer Ponds*

Marin County

Sunday, January 12

Meet at 8 a.m. at the parking lot. We will see wintering ducks and shorebirds, keeping in mind that anything can show up! Take Hwy. 101 north and exit at the Lucas Valley Drive/Smith Ranch Rd. off ramp. Go east on Smith Ranch Rd. to the end. Take a sharp left to the sewage treatment ponds, just before the county park. Drive past the headquarters to the parking lot on the left. Trip ends at noon. Beginners welcome. Leader: Mark Eaton 415.566.6767; mweaton@pacbell.net.

Aquatic Park, San Francisco

Sundays, January 12, January 26

Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the foot of the Hyde Street Pier (Hyde & Jefferson) for this beginners bird walk. Discover birds next door to the urban environment. San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park Ranger Carol Kiser will lead this approximately two hour walk. Dress in layers. Trip is wheelchair accessible. 415.561.7100 or 561-7104.

Birds of Rush Creek*

Novato

Saturday January 18

Waterfowl, shorebirds and raptors abound at this tidal wetland. Meet at 9 a.m. with trip ending around 1 p.m. Go north to Novato on Hwy. 101 exiting at the Atherton/San Marin exit. Go east on Atherton, and turn left onto Binford Road. We will meet at the gate on the right which is at the edge of the marsh. Leader: Jeffrey Black 510.526.7068.

Lake Merritt, Oakland

Sunday, January 19

Meet at 9 a.m. at Grand Ave. and El Embarcadero by the Greek Colonade.

This will be an excellent opportunity to observe wintering ducks and grebes at close range. This trip is recommended for beginners; wheelchair accessible. Bring binoculars, scope and field guide. Trip ends at noon. Rain cancels. Leader: Joan Zawaski 415.621.2424 (day), 510.530.2427 (eve); jzawaski@alnella.com.

San Francisco's Wintering Birds

Saturday, January 25

Meet at Merrie Way in San Francisco (just east of Cliff House) at 8 a.m. for a look at some of the birds who spend their winters in our mild climate. We'll check for shorebirds and ocean birds at Land's End, see the wintering seed-eaters in Sutro Heights, then move on to Crissy Field and the Presidio for a variety of visitors from the north and east. Bring water, expect wind and/or rain. Scopes will be helpful. Leader: Harry Fuller; anzatowhee@yahoo.com.

Bodega Bay*

Sunday, January 26

Meet at 9 a.m. at the corner of Eastshore and Hwy. 1 about 1 mile north of Diekmann's Store. We'll begin by birding the rich Bodega Harbor area and Bodega Head, covering as many spots as time and birds permit. Bring lunch. We may bird until as late as 3 p.m. Rain cancels. Beginners welcome. Leader: Bob Lewis 510.845.5001; Rlewis0727@aol.com.

San Leandro Marina to Hayward Shoreline Regional Park

Sunday, January 26

A non-strenuous 14-mile round trip bicycle birding excursion along a good bicycle path adjacent to San Francisco Bay. Meet at 8:45 a.m. at San Leandro

Marina Park. From 880 in San Leandro, take the Marina Blvd. exit west 1.4 miles and turn left onto Monarch Bay Dr. This road ends in 1 mile at the park. AC Transit bus #55 has its terminus here; these buses have bicycle racks. We'll see birds on the bay, in the marsh, in the fields and aloft: Grebes, ducks, sparrows, shorebirds, herons and raptors. Bicycle helmet required. Dress warmly and bring lunch and liquids. Trip will be over by 2 p.m. Rain cancels. Leader: Kathy Jarrett 510.547.1233; kathy_jarrett@yahoo.com.


Panoche Valley*

Sunday, February 2

This trip produces several species of raptors, including Mountain Bluebirds, Phainopeplas, Vesper Sparrows, Lewis' Woodpecker and others. Meet at 8 a.m. at the intersection of Interstate 5 and Little Panoche Rd. (south of Los Banos). Trip ends in Paicines, 12.5 miles south of Hollister. Considering the distance involved in this trip, be sure to arrive with a full gas tank. Bring lunch and warm clothes. Trip will end about 3 p.m. Rain cancels. Leader: Chris Carpenter 510.569.9281 (day) or 510.547.2201 (eve).

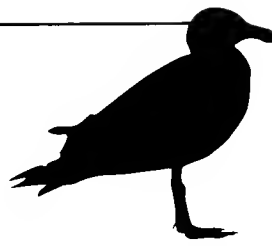
Honey Lake and Greater Sage-Grouse

Saturday-Sunday, March 15-16

We will search Lassen County for Greater Sage-Grouse, Bald Eagles and other wintering birds of the Eastern Sierra. Limited to the first 20 participants who sign up with the leader after January 31. Detailed directions provided. Lodging is available in Susanville; primitive camping is available in the Honey Lake State Wildlife Area. Bring warm clothing, lunches for both days, and a scope if you have one. Leader: Dave Quady 510.704.9353; davequady@worldnet.att.net. 

BACKYARD BIRDER

Meg Pauletich



Winter brings us a multitude of wonderful shore birds, the magnificent White Pelican, the occasional Bald Eagle and lovely wintering land birds. Winter birding is great because you don't have as many pesky leaves shielding the birds from view. And in February we usually have a burst of spring-like days. However, if you, like sugar, melt in the rain, there are many wetland areas, where you can bird watch from your car (although once you've arrived I'm sure you'll be tempted to get out to enjoy the show).

You have many choices, depending on how far you wish to travel. The following is a sampling, with phone numbers for more information.

Palo Alto Baylands Preserve: Exit Highway 101 at Embarcadero in Palo Alto and head east. Mudflats, salt marshes, tidal lagoons, ponds and a small freshwater marsh which insures a varied mix of bird life. 415.329.2261.

Hayward Shoreline: A great spot at the east end of the San Mateo Bridge where you can walk along levees. From 92 west, take Clawiter/Eden Landing exit and continue west. 510.635.0135 ext. 2200; also ask about Cogswell Marsh in Hayward.

San Francisco Bay Wildlife Refuge, Fremont: Across the Dumbarton Bridge is a large preserve where you have a choice of trails upland, through salt marshes and sloughs or a shoreline trail. 510.792.7245.

Arrowhead Marsh, Oakland, off Heggenberger Road is a fabulous area with paved paths. 415.635.0135 ext. 2200.

Crown Memorial State Beach, Alameda: A super spot for setting up your scope. There is an overlook called the Elsie Roemer Bird Sanctuary south of Crab Cove. 510.635.0135 ext. 2200.


Bothin Marsh (Corte Madera, Marin County): The path goes along Richardson's Bay, and you can stop and visit the Audubon Center. North on 101, exit at Mill Valley and turn right on Almonte Blvd. The path goes north or south and connects with Bayfront Park in Mill Valley. 415.388.2524.

Triangle Marsh, Corte Madera: This is a small 33-acre park. Going north, exit Hwy 101 at Paradise Dr., then turn right at the foot of the exit ramp onto

San Clemente which flows into Paradise Dr. Just past a residential area look for the marsh on the left across from the Ring Mountain Preserve.

Shoreline & Muzzi Marshes, Corte Madera: There are trails and walks along the levees; lots of shorebirds. Exit Hwy 101 at Lucky Drive and go to the end of Industrial Way for parking.

There are many more farther away. Sacramento Wildlife Refuge and several other preserves on I-5; Gray Lodge near Yuba City (530.846.5176); Grizzly Island Wildlife in Suisun City (707.425.3828); Woodbridge Ecological Reserve off I-5, north of Stockton; Pescadero Marsh in San Mateo County (415.726.8800); Cosumnes River Preserve (916.684.2816); and Pt. Reyes, Abbotts Lagoon (415.663.1092).

You can also just wander around in the Delta region on farm roads as I did one time when I was lost. Or, you could take one of the Audubon trips listed in *The Gull*, where you would have the advantage of a knowledgeable leader and many fine fellow birders. See you on the road! 

Donations

Thank you all for your donations to support the many activities of Golden Gate Audubon Society.

Golden Eagle (\$1000 and more)

Anonymous (Latin America Committee for Sierra Gorda programs in Mexico), Anonymous (Latin America Committee for GGAS Education programs including Letter Exchange Project)

Least Tern (\$200 to \$500)

Cornelia Foster (including matching Bank of America Foundation employee matching donation), Eric Leenson and Monica Marini

Clapper Rail (\$100 to \$200)

Anonymous, Ellen and Russell Breslauer, William

T. Espey, Clyde Morris, David M. Robinson, Joyce and Jim Schnobrich, Arlene H. Sullivan

Gifts (to \$100)

Ken and Mary Cardwell, David and Lanice Clark, Bruce and Myra Cobbledick, Timothy Kask, Toni Montez, Patrick Mooney, Juanita Neilands, Craig and Martha Spriggs, William and Nancy Vosper

Foundation Grants

American Bird Conservancy, \$2,580 for Cats Indoors! Project

Sierra Club, \$300 for Dog/Park Issues

A bequest to the Golden Gate Audubon Society helps make it possible for us to continue the good work we do in helping preserve our natural world for future generations. If you are interested in setting up a bequest, we have a team of experts who will be glad to help you. Please call Arthur Feinstein at our GGAS office for more information. Our phone number is 510.843.2222. Thanks.

The Quiet "War" on the Environment

by Marjorie Blackwell

Unlike the potential war on Iraq, which has been debated ad infinitum by the White House, Congress and the media, the Bush administration's "war" on the environment is receiving little fanfare, debate or public scrutiny, except by environmental organizations. The assaults are carried out in the name of "streamlining regulations," "cutting red tape" and "promoting a strong American economy." Protective regulations that have been in effect for decades are being broadsided, and with a Republican majority in Congress the attacks are likely to accelerate. Consider news accounts of actions, primarily affecting California, that have occurred in just the past few months.

September

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation set lower water levels than federal biologists believed necessary for the survival of coho salmon in the Klamath River so that Klamath Basin farmers could receive more irrigation water. Not long after, 33,000 fall-run chinook and coho salmon and steelhead died from lack of water. The administration so far has not acknowledged that its decision to release less water into the river had any connection to the sudden fish kill.

The administration cut 80 percent of the funds requested by the Agriculture Department to expand two farm conservation programs. One program helps landowners turn plowed fields



As these policies are implemented, we can only expect a decline in bird species and bird populations.

back into wetlands, and the other pays landowners not to sell to developers.

October

In an unprecedented action, the Bush administration filed a legal challenge against California's requirements that automakers increase sales of electric and low-polluting vehicles. In the U.S. Court of Appeals in San Francisco, the Justice Department claimed the state's recent zero-emissions rules violate the federal government's exclusive authority to regulate fuel efficiency. The rules, however, do not dictate gas mileage standards. They allow automakers to sell a certain percent of gas/electric hybrid vehicles in order to meet California's emissions goals and reduce air pollution.

The administration proposed new rules limiting environmental review and citizen legal appeals for logging projects


in forests considered at risk of burning. The rules would allow the Forest Service and Interior Department to bypass detailed environmental analysis and prevent citizens from challenging logging projects that the departments deem necessary to thin overgrown forests.

November

Despite receiving nearly 300,000 comments in support of banning snowmobiles altogether in Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks, the Bush administration decided to allow 35 percent more snowmobiles than currently traverse the parks on a daily average. When the new rules go into effect in March, 1,100 snowmobiles per day will be able to roar through Yellowstone and Grand Teton.

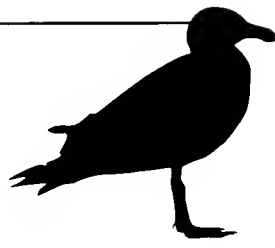
The Environmental Protection Agency issued new regulations that allow factories, power plants, refineries and other heavy industries to modernize and expand their plants without using the newest available pollution-control equipment. California, which for years has had stricter air pollution standards than the federal government, will be forced to comply with the new rules.

Zeroing in on the long-range impact of the administration's environmental offense, one national magazine recently noted that decisions made during the next two years can have consequences extending far beyond the President or the new Congress, causing irretrievable damage to streams, rivers and forests for years to come.

What can we do? Start by writing to President Bush at the White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, DC 20500 asking him to think of his legacy and the long-term effects of his actions on the environment. 

OBSERVATIONS

November 1–30, 2002
Jay Withgott



N

ovember truly marks the passage from fall into winter, as most of the migrant passerines that kept us busy for the autumn migration are suddenly nowhere to be found — and as wintering waterfowl and raptors pouring in from the north now fill our waterways and open country. This November brought plenty of good birds throughout our nine-county region.

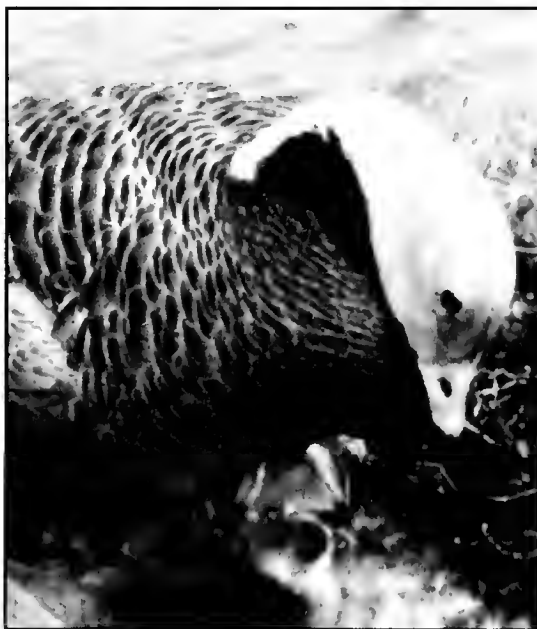
Loons to Ducks

Four Red-necked Grebes were reported from MRN, SM, and SON (mob). The Laysan Albatross faithful to Arena Cove, MEN, arrived in mid-month for yet another winter of thrilling landlubber birders with eye-popping dockside views. More-distant sightings of tubenoses were reported by numerous onshore seawatchers from spots like Pigeon Pt., SM, and PRNS, MRN, throughout the month. Summed totals were: 64 Northern Fulmars, 4 Pink-footed Shearwaters, 62 Buller's Shearwaters, 23-24 Sooty Shearwaters, 2-3 Short-tailed Shearwaters, and 436 Black-vented Shearwaters (mob).

At the Farallon Is., SF, an ad. female **Brown Booby** (*Sula leucogaster*) put in an appearance on 26 Oct. And on 1-2 Nov., a Pink-backed Pelican arrived (PP). This is presumably the same individual that was in the area 2 years ago; an African species, it was judged likely not to be a wild bird. Marin County's leucistic Turkey Vulture was seen through at least the 10th, and appeared to roost near Muir Beach (DMc, oob).

The Lake Co. **Emperor Goose** (*Chen canagica*) continued through the 7th (JWh), while migrating White-fronted

Geese were numerous. Brant were noted in SM and SF, 3 Snow Geese over MRN and SF, and 7 Ross's Geese from ALA and SCL (mob). Uncommon ducks such as Eurasian Wigeon, Blue-winged Teal, Redhead, and Hooded Merganser were present locally regionwide, and 50 Barrow's Goldeneyes at Martinez, CC, 14 Nov., was notable (SG). A Tufted Duck was on the Bay at Emeryville, 1 Nov. (DW), and others were in SM at Redwood Shores the 15th-23rd (RT; oob) and Foster City the 23rd (RT). A Harlequin Duck at Richmond, CC, 13 Nov., stayed until at least the 22nd (SG; oob), while the CPCP, SM, Harlequin was last



Emperor Goose

reported 2 Nov. (CL). Single Long-tailed Ducks were reported from Charleston Slough, SCL, 15-29 Nov. (mob); Pillar Pt., SM, 23-30 Nov. (GD; oob); and Pigeon Pt., SM, 25 Nov. (KA).

Raptors to Alcids

A Bald Eagle flew from Hawk Hill, MRN, into SF on 4 Nov. (GGRO), 3 coastal Golden Eagles flew over SF and SM (BF, BN, PS), and several Rough-

legged Hawks and Prairie Falcons and many Ferruginous Hawks passed through the region. On 26 Nov., a gray-phase **Gyr Falcon** (*Falco rusticolus*) was reported from near Robinson and Flannery Rds, SOL (RM) — the very location one was reported last year. As occurred last year, at month's end birders had not relocated the bird. And yet another sighting of a **Crested Caracara** (*Caracara cheriway*) occurred in San Mateo Co., this one on 6 Nov. (JLu). As in an earlier sighting, the bird was seen feeding on roadkill along Hwy 1 s. of Half Moon Bay.

A Black Rail vocalized at Oakley, CC, on 30 Nov. (JM, RFi). Unusually late Pacific Golden-Plovers were seen at Shollenberger Park, SON, 2-3 Nov. (BD, RSt), and at Stevens Cr. tidal marsh, SCL, 1-29 Nov. (BB; oob). On Robinson Rd., SOL, Mountain Plovers returned for another winter, numbering 272 on the 23rd (LE; oob).

A Rock Sandpiper was seen on a Bodega Bay, SON, jetty, 8-10 Nov. (LH; KG). On the 12th, 2 Reeves were reported from State & Spreckles Sts in Alviso, SCL (BR, FV). While Red Phalaropes were being seen along the coast (39 reported, mob), a very late Red-necked Phalarope was a surprise at Alviso on 16 Nov. (MR). Several Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers, several Black-legged Kittiwakes, and scattered Rhinoceros Auklets were noted in seawatches off MRN, SF, and SM (mob).

Doves to Thrashers

A White-winged Dove was found at Chimney Rock, PRNS, MRN, on 14 Nov. (JP).

Perhaps the most bizarre sighting this month was of a Burrowing Owl that somehow made its way to the Embarcadero BART station in downtown San Francisco. A birder (LI) noticed it on 4 Nov. at 10 pm, perched on a recycling bin near the top of the escalator. A nearby BART worker, LI writes, was "confounded by the bird and not sure what to do. ... The owl, who let

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

us get very close, opened its eyes ever so slightly now and again, but was completely unfazed by our presence." The next day the owl had apparently left on its own, according to BART workers.

Not quite as bizarre but still pretty weird for the city was a flyover Short-eared Owl at Middle Lake, GGP, on 26 Nov. (KM). One foraging at dusk at Palo Alto the previous evening (BB) was more expected. A Saw-whet Owl was taped in on the 13th off Summit Rd., SCL (MM, MR, BR, FV), and a likely Saw-whet was reported heard at McLaren Park, SF, on the 3rd (ADM).

A Red-naped Sapsucker was reported from Gazos Cr Rd, SM, on 18 Nov. (RT). And although not considered a separate species, an individual of the nominate subspecies of Red-breasted Sapsucker, *Sphyrapicus ruber ruber*, aroused interest during its stay in Strybing Arboretum, GGP, SF, 16-24 Nov. (JM, VB; mob). There may be as few as 8 previous reports for all of northern California of this Pacific Northwest subspecies (JM).

An **Alder Flycatcher** (*Empidonax alnorum*) arrived on SE Farallon Is., SF, on 25 Oct. and was banded and identified on 2 Nov. (PP). Three Tropical Kingbirds were noted: 1 at Bodega Bay, SON, on the 3rd (BBu); 1 at Shollenberger Park, SON, on the 4th-5th (MP, GF, BD; RSt); and 1 at CCFS, SCL, on the 12th-15th (BR, FV; mob). In Santa Cruz Co., a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was reported from Pajaro Dunes on 1 Nov. (JiWh, NW).

In the area of the Gyr Falcon report in SOL, a Northern Shrike was reported on the 26th (RM). In Pacifica, SM, 2 Yellow-billed Magpies were out-of-range on the 26th (JRB). On 4 Nov., 38 Cliff Swallows were viewed flying n. past CPCP, SM (RT), an odd phenomenon that has been observed here before in late fall. On the 2nd a Barn Swallow was seen at L. Merced, SF (DM); unlike last year, however, no further reports of unusually late Barn Swallows were made during the month.

Wood Warbler Sightings

Tennessee Warbler

1 bird, Strybing Arboretum, JWi; RF
23-24 Nov. GGP, SF
1 bird, El Granada, SM RT
24 Nov.

Nashville Warbler

1 bird, Marina Bay, SG
13 Nov. Richmond, CC

Palm Warbler

11 birds MRN, SF, SM, SON mob

Abbreviations for Observers:

DA, David Armstrong; KA, Kumaran Arul; BB, Bill Bousman; BBa, Bob Battagin; BBu, Betty Burrige; JRB, J.R. Blair; VB, Vikki Bay; JC, Josiah Clark; LCh, Les Chibana; ADM, Al DeMartini; BD, Bob Dyer; GD, Gary Deghi; ND, Nathan Dias; SD, Stephen Davies; LE, Leo Edson; BF, Brian Fitch; GF, George Finger; RF, Rich Ferrick; RFi, Robbie Fischer; KG, Kevin Guse; SG, Steve Glover; DH, Derek Heins; LH, Lisa Hug; LI, Libby Ingalls; CL, Calvin Lou; JL, Janet Little; JLu, Jonathan Lundell; LL, Leslie Lieurance; WL, William Legg; DM, Dan Murphy; DMc, Dave McKenzie; JM, Joe Morlan;

KM, Kevin McKereghan; MM, Michael Mammoser; RM, Ron Melzer; BN, Bess Neruccio; DvN, David Nelson; JP, John Perry; KP, Kathy Parker; MP, Marge Plant; PP, Peter Pyle; BR, Bob Reiling; DR, Don Reinberg; JR, Jennifer Rycenga; MR, Michael Rogers; DS, David Suddjian; PS, Paul Saraceni; RS, Rich Stallcup; RSt, Ron Storey; DT, Dorothy Tobkin; RT, Ronald S. Thorn; MU, Myra Ulvang; FV, Frank Vanslager; DW, Denise Wight; NW, Natalie White; JWh, Jerry White; JiWh, Jim White; JWi, Jay Withgott.

Semicolons separate original observer(s) from subsequent observer(s). Abbreviation "mob" = many observers; "oob" = other observers. Information is compiled from BirdBox transcripts and regional listservs; the author apologizes for any errors or omissions.

Abbreviations for Counties and Others:

ALA, Alameda; CC, Contra Costa; CCFS, Coyote Cr. Field Station; CPCP, Coyote Point Co. Park; Co., County; Cr., Creek; GGP, Golden Gate Park; L., Lake; MEN, Mendocino; MRN, Marin; PRNS, Pt. Reyes National Seashore; SCL, Santa Clara; SF, San Francisco; SM, San Mateo; SOL, Solano; SON, Sonoma; SP, State Park.

A Mountain Bluebird was reported in flight from Hawk Hill on 5 Nov. (LCh). Mt. Davidson, SF's, second Townsend's Solitaire of the fall passed through on the 15th (PS), and 1 was noted at Mt. Tamalpais, MRN, 29 Nov. (JC).


Wood Warblers to Finches

Aside from Palm Warblers, warblers were few this month (see chart). A late Wilson's Warbler was noted on the 3rd at GGP, SF (BF), and late Hermit Warblers at Milpitas, SCL, on the 12th (KP) and Summit Rd, SCL, on the 17th (DS).

A Summer Tanager was found at Middle L., GGP, SF, on the 3rd, and re-located on the 24th (RS; RF). Late Western Tanagers were noted at the SF Zoo, 11 Nov. (DM) and at Pleasanton, ALA, the 20th (DH). A Clay-colored Sparrow lingered at Sutro Hts Park, SF, until 3 Nov. (*fide* MU, ND), another was at Pilarcitos Cr, SM, the same day (RT), and 1 was at San Tomas Aquino Cr, SCL, 4-8 Nov. (BR, FV; oob). A Lark Sparrow appeared at Rodeo Lagoon, MRN, 19 Nov. (JC, DR). The month's

only Swamp Sparrow reports were from SF — 1 at Middle L., GGP, on 2 and 24 Nov. (ND; RF), and 1 at L. Merced, 3-8 Nov. (DM; oob). "Slate-colored" Juncos were noted in CC, SCL, and SM (LL, JR, DS).

A Lapland Longspur was reported from Candlestick Park, SF, 4 Nov., for a first city record (ADM). Another was at North Beach turnoff, PRNS, MRN, 26 Nov. (JWi), and a third lingered from October at Menlo Park, SM, until 1 Nov. (BBa, LCh, JWi). Chestnut-collared Longspurs (1-3) were at North Beach turnoff, PRNS, 24-27 Nov. (SD; JWi; DvN). A **Snow Bunting** (*Plectrophenax nivalis*) visited MacKerricher SP, MEN, 11-16 Nov. (mob).

Headlining the icterids was a Rusty Blackbird found amid the blackbird flock at the Bear Valley Visitors Center, PRNS, MRN, 25 Nov., but seen for only 1 day (RS). A male Great-tailed Grackle was at McNabney Marsh, Martinez, CC, 9 Nov. (DW). And a male Hooded Oriole lingered at a Milpitas, SCL, feeder until at least the 12th (JL). 

Spring Birding Classes in San Francisco

Evening bird classes taught by Joe Morlan and endorsed by Golden Gate Audubon Society will be starting February 4, 5 and 6, 2003. All classes meet 7-9:15 p.m. in room 307, Marina Middle School, 3500 Fillmore at Bay Street. Free parking is in the school lot off Bay Street on the east side of the building.

The instructor is co-author of *Birds of San Francisco and the Bay Area* and *Birds of Northern California*. He is also coordinator of the recorded Northern California Birdbox sponsored by Golden Gate Audubon Society. Slides illustrate all lectures, and the text for all classes is *A Field Guide to Birds of North America*, fourth edition, by the National Geo-


graphic Society. *The Sibley Guide to Birds* is recommended as an adjunct text for Ornithology II & III.

Field Ornithology I meets on Tuesdays. It is an introduction to birds and birding, combining basic field skills with the study of bird ecology, biology, evolution and behavior. Part A (EA101) starts February 4 and ends March 18; Part B (EA105) starts March 25 and ends May 20.

Field Ornithology II meets on Wednesdays. It is a continuing in-depth study of the identification and status of North American land birds, including flycatchers, shrikes, vireos, and corvids. Part A (EA110) starts February 5 and ends March 19; Part B

(EA115) starts March 26 and ends May 21.

Field Ornithology III meets on Thursdays. It is a continuing study of North American birds including ducks, hawks, falcons and partridges. Part A (EA120) starts February 6 and ends March 20; Part B (EA125) starts March 27 and ends May 22.

The instructor may arrange optional field trips on weekends. Please bring binoculars and field guides to class if you have them. Fees are \$115 for each seven-week course. Pre-registration is strongly advised. For further information call the college at (415) 561-1860. 

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

As a member of National Audubon Society, you are automatically enrolled in the local chapter, Golden Gate Audubon Society. Chapter benefits include receipt of *The Gull*, access to field trips and programs, and the opportunity to volunteer. Call the office if you have any questions.

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